

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 10 and 20-22 without prejudice and amend claims 1-9 and 11-19 as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A washing installation, comprising:  
a first washer (3) for washing slices of root vegetable with water ~~when slicing the same,~~  
a second washer in the form of a rotating pipe (4) supplied with water at an infeed end for the slices of root vegetable washed during slicing, and  
a third washer (20) with a foraminated conveyor (16) for an additional washing of the slices of root vegetable discharged from the pipe (4) and conveyance of the same to a hopper, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the rotating pipe (4), on each side of an intermediate portion (7), has a portion (6, 8) with increased diameter, ~~[[that]]~~ the intermediate portion (7) is perforrated, and ~~[[that]]~~ a water inlet is arranged in the portion ~~[[ (8) ]]~~ with increased diameter after the intermediate portion (7) for replacing the washing water flowing out of the perforations of the intermediate portion (7).
2. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the portions (6, 8) with increased diameter each have a cone-shaped transition at their end facing the intermediate portion (7) and each have a corresponding transition at their end facing away from the intermediate portion (7).

3. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that drivers~~ further comprising drivers, for moving the slices of root vegetable through the ~~pipe (4)~~ pipe, are arranged in each portion with increased diameter.

4. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the foraminated conveyor (16) of the third washer (20) is a vibrating table, at one end of which the slices of root vegetable are discharged from the second washer (15) and at the other end of which the third washer (2) is placed.

5. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a first pump (23) for recirculating water from an outlet of the second washer (15) to an inlet of the first washer (3), and a second pump (24) for recirculating water from an outlet of the third washer (2) to an inlet of the second washer (15).

6. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a collecting tank (11) having a first section (12) for the first washer (3), a second section (13) for the second washer (15) and a third section (14) for the third washer (20).

7. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the inlet of the first pump (23) is connected to the

second section (13), and that the inlet of the second pump (24) is connected to the third section (14).

8. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that wherein the first section (12) is connected to the second section (13) for reflux of water from the first section (12) to the second section (13) at a lower water level in the second section (13) than in the first section (12), and that the second section (13) is connected to the third section (14) for reflux of water from the second section (13) to the third section (14) at a lower water level in the third section (14) than in the second section (13).

9. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that wherein each of the sections (12-14) of the collecting tank (11) has a filter on its inlet side.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 2, characterised in that further comprising drivers, for moving the slices of root vegetable through the pipe ~~[[ (4) ]]~~, are arranged in each portion with increased diameter.

12. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that wherein the foraminated conveyor (16) of the third washer (20)

is a vibrating table, at one end of which the slices of root vegetable are discharged from the second washer (15) and at the other end of which the third washer (2) is placed.

13. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the foraminated conveyor (16) of the third washer (20) is a vibrating table, at one end of which the slices of root vegetable are discharged from the second washer (15) and at the other end of which the third washer (2) is placed.

14. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a first pump (23) for recirculating water from an outlet of the second washer (15) to an inlet of the first washer (3), and a second pump (24) for recirculating water from an outlet of the third washer (2) to an inlet of the second washer (15).

15. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a first pump (23) for recirculating water from an outlet of the second washer (15) to an inlet of the first washer (3), and a second pump (24) for recirculating water from an outlet of the third washer (2) to an inlet of the second washer (15).

16. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a first pump (23) for recirculating water from an

outlet of the second washer (15) to an inlet of the first washer (3), and a second pump (24) for recirculating water from an outlet of the third washer (2) to an inlet of the second washer (15).

17. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first section (12) is connected to the second section (13) for reflux of water from the first section (12) to the second section (13) at a lower water level in the second section (13) than in the first section (12), and that the second section (13) is connected to the third section (14) for reflux of water from the second section (13) to the third section (14) at a lower water level in the third section (14) than in the second section (13).

18. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of the sections (12-14) of the collecting tank (11) has a filter on its inlet side.

19. (Currently Amended) A washing installation as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of the sections (12-14) of the collecting tank (11) has a filter on its inlet side.

Claims 20-22 (Canceled)